

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated May 13, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 13-14, 16-18 and 20-23 are rejected. Accordingly, claims 13-14, 16-18, and 20-23 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the present Office Action, 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections. In rejecting claims 16 and 17, the Office Action states that “the specification is not enabling for edge contours that are ‘pressed below the interior region.’” With respect to this limitation, the applicant points the examiner to at least paragraph [0016] of the amended specification, which states clearly, “This invention advocates new direct laminated flooring of cellulose sheets impregnated with polymerizable resins and having design characteristics, and that, once pressed, have offset/sunk areas in the peripheral regions.” One of skill in the art of laminate flooring would understand this to mean that the floor board is pressed such that a portion of the edge contour is pressed to form offset/sunk areas, *e.g.*, below the interior region.

In rejecting claims 14-15¹, and 18-19, the Office Action states “the specification does not teach, suggest or disclose an edge contour that has a substantially linear shape . . .” With respect to this limitation, the applicant points the examiner to at least paragraph [0010] of the amended specification, which states clearly, “That is, a product’s perimeter edge is contoured to be a few tenths of millimeters below the rest of the product’s surface.” One of skill in the art of laminate flooring would understand this to mean that the floor board has a relieved perimeter of any shape. One of skill in the art would further understand that because the relieved perimeter is formed by pressing, as discussed above, is pressed such that a portion of the edge contour is pressed to form offset/sunk areas, *e.g.*, below the interior region.

¹ Applicant notes that claim 15 was canceled by the amendment filed February 26, 2010. Thus, Applicant presents no arguments with respect to claim 15.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) with respect to the feature “the edge contour with substantially continuous curve.” Claims containing this limitation were deleted by the Amendment filed February 26, 2010. Thus objection is and should not appear again in an office action.

Claims 13-14, 16-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,146,252 to Martensson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,858,160 to Piacente. Independent claim 13 recites “the product having both a perimeter area having an edge contour and an interior region, wherein the perimeter area is relieved such that a portion of the edge contour is below the interior region, wherein the interior region has a surface texture that varies in accordance with a visual pattern printed on the at least one cellulose sheet.” None of the art of record, including Martensson and Piacente, teaches or suggests this combination of limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 and claims 14 and 16, which depend from claim 13, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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